

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY SERVICES AND DEVELOPMENT

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LIHEAP SERVICE PROVIDERS COMMITTEE MEETING
Community Services & Development Department
700 North 10th Street
Sacramento, CA.
November 18, 2008
10am – 2pm
Conference Call # 1-888-447-7153 Pin 9022288#

Roll Call – Introduction of Guests (10 min)

Approval of Minutes (5 min)

Director's Report (15 min)

Energy Council Reports

Energy Automation Update – Dennis Osmer (15 min)
2009 LIHEAP Contract and Funding Update – Val Martinez (20 min)
Utility Leveraging Update – Val Martinez (15 min)

2008 NCAF Leveraging Conference

CSI Solar Presentation – Lloyd Throne (15 min)
2009 LIHEAP Program Ramp-up & Innovative Strategies
(Val Martinez – 20min)

Lunch – (30 min)

ServTraq LITE Demonstrations – Osmer & Johnson (35 min)

2009 LIHEAP Program Year Update (20 min)

DOE Program and Funding Update

Supplemental Funding – Jason Wimbley (10 min)
Program monitoring Review – Jason Wimbley (15 min)

Regional Workshops – Renee' (15 min)

Association Updates (10 min)

Topics for Next Meeting and Announcements – Adjournment (10 min)

Val Martinez called the meeting to order at 10am and roll was taken.

Roll Call and Approval of Minutes

Redwood Community Action Agency
Community Enhancement Services
Coulson-Glenn-Trinity Community Action Agency
County of Nevada Community Development Agency
El Dorado County Department of Human Services
Central Coast Energy Services, Inc.
San Joaquin County Department of Aging, Children's and Community Services
Community Action Partnership of San Bernardino County
Fresno County Economic Opportunities Commission
Self Help Home Improvement Project, Inc.
Community Action Partnership Orange County
Maravilla Foundation
Community Action Partnership of Riverside County
Great Northern Corporation
Spectrum Community Service, Inc.
Metropolitan Area Advisory Committee
Campesinos Unidos, Inc.
Community Action of Ventura County
Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County
Pacific Asian Consortium in Employment
Community Action Marin
Community Resource Project
Community Action Agency of San Mateo County, Inc.
Center for Community Futures
North Coast Energy Services
Community Action Agency of Butte County, Inc.
Merced County Community Action Agency
El Dorado County Department of Human Services
Association of California & Energy Services
San Diego Gas & Electric/Southern California Gas
Nevada City Housing

Conference Call

San Benito County Department of Community Services & Workforce Development
Economic Opportunity Council of San Francisco
Pluma County Commission Development Commission
Central Valley Opportunity Center, Inc.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the August 7, 2008 meeting were approved.

Director's Report

The President signed into law HR 2638, the "Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriation Act, 2009", which provides a total of \$5.1 billion for LIHEAP FFY09. Lloyd said the LIHEAP program will go from "Starvation to Buffet" status with the new funds and stressed the importance of ramping-up to expend these funds, to get services out to those that need it and to demonstrate the state's capacity to deliver services. NEADA is focusing its efforts on compiling information from states to brief Transition Committees and gain support for continued funding at \$5.1 billion. The Presidential election of Barack Obama and Joe Biden promises to bring about historic changes within both our country and our programs. Although the outlook of DOE and LIHEAP looks very positive with the new administration, we should not ignore the reality that with new opportunities also come huge responsibilities. The new administration has made direct reference to LIHEAP and DOE as a resource in the administration's energy plan, and is calling for the weatherization of 1 million homes annually. Lloyd said that we can expect the shifting of focus towards our network and its capacity to be effective and efficient deliverers of services for not only weatherization and other forms of green and renewable energy services. We must accept that with the new administration change will come and that we must be ready and willing to accept the responsibilities and adapt to the changes. Lloyd went on to discuss the State budget. The State's budget deficit numbers have never been so large. The mortgage crisis has deepened, unemployment has increased, and the stock market has dropped significantly. As a result, the State is facing a projected \$11 billion revenue shortfall this fiscal year. The Governor is proposing a combination of economic stimulus measures, programs to keep Californians in their homes, revenue increases and spending reductions to address the immediate financial problems. Along with the revenue shortage, the State is spending about \$1.00 for every 90 cents it takes in. The Governor is proposing furloughs for all State employees, reduction of State holidays, four day work weeks and no overtime. These changes will save the State roughly \$1.4 billion over two years. With the decline in retail sales and automobiles and the loss of capital gains, the State's cash flow is threatened. The Governor will call for \$4.5 billion in cuts to the current-year budget. These cuts will affect education funding, higher education funding, SSI/SSP grants, CalWORKS, state employee compensation, Dept. of Corrections, public safety programs and Medi-Cal benefits. The Governor is also proposing \$4.7 billion in new revenues in the form of a temporary sales tax increase, broadening the sales and use tax, an oil severance tax to oil producers and an increase in the alcohol and excise tax.

Lloyd then changed the subject to the Presidential election. Presidential elect Obama has run on a platform of “change” and with the new administration “change” is going to occur. Historically, Obama has been an advocate for the poor and a proponent of the Earned Income Tax Credit, increasing the minimum wage, helping Americans purchase their own homes without relying on predatory lenders, lowering the costs of college education and ensuring that low-income students have access to the best teachers and promoting responsible fatherhood. Obama’s “think tank” has already developed many public policy proposals for tackling the economic crisis in a way that promotes environmental benefits, economic stability and sustainability, and essentially designing and executing a set of changes that taken together will lead to nothing less than a fundamental societal transformation. Lloyd said that OCS will have a new found focus on community action; yet we will have more responsibility and accountability. However, the good side of this is that Congress will now see the good work that we do.

Energy Automation Update

Dennis Osmer discussed the ServTraq Lite training that begins on January 6, 2009. The training will take place at the learning lab located at 135 Aviation Way,, Ste 2 & 3, Watsonville, Ca. Three courses will be offered; Cash Assistance Entry and Record Uploading (10 hours), Weatherization/HCS Job Entry (12 hours) and Reporting (4 hours). Dennis said that if your agency is already using ServTraq, you do not need to attend the training. All of the courses need not be taken at the same time. Each LIHEAP Service Provider is encouraged to arrange training immediately prior to starting each program. Agencies not planning to start activity on your 2009 Weatherization/HCS programs at the same time as 2009 PY Cash Assistance Programs, you should split the training for better retention. The learning lab will be in operation until June of 2009. Mark Rodriguez of CCES at (877) 401-6805 will schedule your training and answer your questions. His e-mail is mark@energyservices.org. Attendees will be expected to bring a minimum of 25 HEAP applications and job sheets from their agency with which they will practice entry.

2009 LIHEAP Contract & Funding Update

Val Martinez said that 6% of the 2009 LIHEAP grant will be set aside for innovative LIHEAP projects with a priority on implementing a working prototype of the solar model proposed by CSD in its Solar for All California. There were discussions at the NCAF conference about LIHEAP meeting the requirements of the additional funds. The new administration has made direct references to LIHEAP and DOE as a resource in the administration’s energy plan, and is calling for the weatherization of one million homes annually. Are our network service providers prepared to handle this level of service

capacity? Val said that if our network does not take charge of the million home weatherization project, the private companies will step up and do it. With regards to the 2009 contract, Val said the 2009-2010 contracts would be released using the current funding formula. A new funding formula will be revisited for the 2011 contract. CSD will release the contract dollars and numbers so that the agencies can share this information with their Board members.

Utility Leveraging

Val Martinez said that at the last meeting the utilities and the LIHEAP weatherization seemed to have more in common on how to work together and to improve delivery in our communities.

2008 NCAF Conference

Lloyd Throne shared his thoughts on the NCAF 2008 Energy Programs Leveraging Conference in Florida that took place the end of October. He said the group was very excited about the election results and that there had not been this much excitement since the Kennedy administration, that was 44 years ago. Robert Kennedy was the keynote speaker and he is a passionate advocate for the environment. There will be a lot of attention on the expanding resources for efficient “green” development – affordable housing and beyond. Discussions were held on the energy market and energy politics and how they will affect the opportunities for financing low income bill assistance, housing and community development. CSD and Morgan Stanley sat on a panel to discuss emerging opportunities for “green” resources. Lloyd gave a synopsis of CSD’s CSI solar initiative and Morgan Stanley addressed the finance issues. The audience was very interested in CSD’s solar package. A workshop addressing California’s Community Action Solar Vision was held in the afternoon. The State’s leaders developed a plan to deliver solar energy to low-income communities with weatherization services of worldwide commodities fund and they see this as a win-win investment.

2009 LIHEAP Program Ramp-Up & Innovative Strategies

The leadership and momentum of the Energy Council is very helpful when looking at strategies on the Federal and State level. The Energy Council and CSD can react very quickly to the changes and is prepared to jointly help the network achieve their goals with the new money coming into the LIHEAP programs. CSD will need feedback from the network providers on the contract amendments and would like a list of measures, activities and strategies to better serve the community with the new money.

California's total funding for FFY09 is approximately \$249 million and CSD will release all funding with the 2009 LIHEAP Contracts. The breakdown of FFY LIHEAP funding includes:

\$223,988,551 – 2009 LIHEAP Main Grand Funds
\$ 22,401,976 – ECF Allocation
\$ 3,081,000 - Leveraging
\$249,447,527

The importance of ramping-up to expend these funds was stressed. The network service providers need to get the services out to those that need it and they also need to demonstrate the state's capacity to deliver these services.

DOE Program and Funding Update

Supplemental Funding

The new LIHEAP contract will be sent to the network by Jan 15, 2009. The budget allocations for the contract will be completed by November 21, 2008. The 2009 LIHEAP grant is approximately \$250 million dollars.

Recently, CSD received a DOE program monitoring review. DOE is requiring that CSD modify its existing blower diagnostic testing to comply with the requirements for performing 100% blower door testing on all DOE weatherized dwellings. To comply with this directive, beginning with the 2009 DOE PY blower door diagnostics will be required on 100% of DOE funded weatherized dwellings. This will include all DOE dwellings leveraged with any LIHEAP, ECIP, or other funding. The actions of DOE has prompted the department to re-evaluate the benefits of the blower door testing under LIHEAP which currently is applied on a random basis on a percentage of dwellings. Implementation of a new blower door policy will be dependent upon an assessment of the conditions under which the testing should be applied in order to maximize the benefits that blower door has to offer in terms of health and safety and energy efficiency. For example, multi-unit dwellings are typically too tight and pose a potential threat to the occupants due to poor air quality. For those dwelling that test below the minimum ventilation requirements, installation of ventilation may be required to improve the air quality of the dwelling. Installation standards and training will be developed and provided for this new measure by July 1, 2009.

Program Monitoring Review

There have been technical problems with the EARS system; this problem should be resolved shortly. Until then, submit your reports manually. There will be a change in the LIHEAP contract in regard to the handling and safeguarding of personal information.

During the course of work with providing intake and eligibility verification of clients under CSD programs, LSPs receive and collect documents containing sensitive personal information such as social security information, driver's license information, date of birth, etc. The new contract requirements require agencies to certify the internal handling procedures to protect and safeguard this information.

SCO approved of the department's request to for the processing of applications without SS# for cash assistance services. CSD doesn't possess the legal authority to require the collection of client SSNs, nor deny an application for assistance for client refusal to provide a SSN. However, we encourage agencies to continue collecting SSNs for the benefits of assisting with the identification of clients and streamlining the eligibility verification of clients; but agencies need to be extremely mindful to not wrongly deny an application for reasons of not providing a SSN and should avail the alternative workaround for handling and processing an application without a SSN. The process for handling applications without a SSN will be supported by the CLASS Help Desk. Instructions outlining this process will be issued to LSP.

Regional Workshops

In March of 2009, CSD will be holding a series of regional workshops for local service providers. Currently, four primary topics are proposed to bring providers up to date with current programs and policies: 1) achieving fiscal compliance; 2) innovative projects and service strategies; 3) a refresher on energy education, and; 4) addressing new requirements to safeguard personal client information. In the next month, providers will be surveyed on the items of greatest interest to them. Workshops are expected to be held in three locations throughout the state: Northern, Central and Southern. CSD will be seeking free or low-cost venues, so providers who may be interested in hosting are asked to notify CSD. Questions and comments regarding the workshops can be sent to Lynn Wiley at lwiley@csd.ca.gov.

Association Updates

Louise Perez from ACCES thanked Lloyd Throne for forming the Energy Council. ACCES has been working with the members of the Energy Council and she said the Council gives us greater vision into the future. A suggestion was made to re-organize ACCES to better respond to issues around the energy arena. A mini summit would be held to re-define ACCES's purpose. The re-organization plan was approved. Yolanda Benson stated with the new administration coming in there would be more accountability and documenting on how we leverage the federal money. This would generate new projects in addition to the normal ones. ARNCEP agreed with Yolanda

and said the network would need to make changes in their programs and leadership. Arleen Novotney discussed the DOE issues. She said in 2010 there would be strict lead procedures in place. The changes will have to be implemented into the current procedures. She also said that the Pollution Occurrence Insurance is no longer required; however, is still recommended by DOE.

Adjournment

The next LIHEAP Service Providers Meeting will be on February 5, 2009